CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I, Jennifer Jacobson, hereby certify that on the 1/2 day of July, 1979, I mailed a true and correct copy of the above



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In the Matter of Unfair Labor ) Practice #18-78: International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 185. Complainant. WE. 5 Helena School District No. 1 6 Befendant. В FINDING OF PACTS, DISCUSSION AND RECOMMENDED ORDER 9 I. INTRODUCTION The major question before the Board of Personnel Appeals (SPA) is the Helena School District No. 1 (School District) right 13 to terminate the current labor agreement with International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 185 (Local 185 or IBEW) and to contract out the work performed under the labor agreement. The question is further coupled with charges of refusing to open a contract for negotiation and charges of coercion for union activities. I will divide the opinion in this matter (ULP (18-78) into the major areas of Statement of Charge, Findings of Fact, Discussion Conclusion of Law and Recommended Order. Because the BPA has very little precedent, I will cite. federal statutes and cases for guidance in the application of

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Montana's Collective Bargaining Act, Title 59, Chapter 16, R.C.M. 1947 (ACT). The Poderal Statutes will generally be the National Labor Relations Act, 29 USCA, Sections 151-166 (NLRA). The Montana Supreme Court in State Department of Bighways vs. Public Employees Craft Council, 165 Mont. 249, 529 P 2d 785 at 787 (1974) approved this principle:

"When legislation has been judicially construed and a subsequent statute on the same or an analogous subject is framed in the identical language, it will ordinarily be presumed that the Legislature intended that the language as used in the later enactment would be given a like

interpretation. This rule is applicable to state statutes which are patterned after federal statutes. [Citing cases] Although the cases which have interpreted the italicized words involved private employees, the act before us incorporates the exact language, consisting of 16 words, found in the carlier statutes, and it is unlikely that the same words would have been repeated without any qualification in a later statute in the absence of an intent that they be given the construction previously adopted by the courts.

"We think similar standards of judicial construction apply in the present case. For example, section 15-102, R.C.M., 1947, provides:

"Words and phrases used in the codes or other statutes of Montana are construed according to the context and the approved usage of the language; but technical words and phrases, and such others as have acquired a peculiar and appropriate meaning in law, or are defined in the succeeding section, as smended, are to be construed according to such peculiar and appropriate meaning or definition." (Emphasis added),

#### II. STATEMENT OF CHARGE

On June 28, 1978, Local 185 filed OLP #18-78 which states in part:

"When Local 185 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers refused to open the contract by mutual consent and downgrade wages during the life of the agreement; the Board froze the wages and terminated our members Harold A. Holmquist and Michael P. O'Brian the entire crew involved for pursuing their rights and after we hired an attorney to obtain back pay they now serve notice to terminate our agreement on at the expiration date June 10th, 1978 at the expiration date refusing our notice to open for wages only.

son 59.1605 (1) (a), (1) (c), & (1) (c)

A hearing in ULP #18-78 was held on August 23, 1978 followed with a brief filed by the defendant on November 8, 1978.

#### III. FINDINGS OF PACT

After a thorough review of the briefs, exhibits, testimony and the demeanor the witnesses, I set forth the following:

- By stipulation, the parties have agreed to the following:
  - A. The School District is a public employer as defined by Section 59-1602 (1) H.C.M. 1947. Tr 1(18).
  - Local 185 is a labor organization as defined by section 59-1602 (5) R.C.M. 1947. Tr 1 (17).

C. The BPA has jurisdiction in this case. Tr 1. (17)

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- D. The Hearing Examiner in ULP #18-78 for the hearing held on August 23, 1978 would only rule on the validity of the allegations. If the allegations are confirmed, a second hearing will be held to consider damages. Tr 6 (6-13).
- 2. Prior to 1971, the School District's maintenance work, including electrical work, was done by a private contracting firm. Over the past ten years, the School District has changed to their own extensive maintenance crow. Tr 23, 24, 31, 32, 54. Starting on or about August 7, 1978, the electrical work for the School District was contracted to and performed by a private electrical contracting firm, Atlas Electric. Tr 25.
- 3. A Labor Agreement was first entered into between Local 185 and the School District on July 1, 1971. The current labor agreement, which includes the basic agreement of 1971, was effective from July 1, 1975 until July 1, 1978. This agreement was approved by the International Brotherhood in April, 1975. School District Exhibit B; Tr 17, 18. The original draft of the 1971 agreement was prepared and submitted by Local 185. Tr 23, 28.

Article I of the current labor agreement states the following in part:

# Effective Date -- Termination - Amendments - Disputes

Sec. 1. This Agreement shall take effect July 1, 1975 and shall remain in effect until July 1, 1978. It shall continue in effect from year to year thereafter, from July 1st of each year, unless changed or terminated in the way provided herein.

Sec. 2. Bither party desiring to change or terminate this agreement must notify the other in writing at least 60 days prior to July 1st of any year. When notice for changes only is given, the nature of the changes desired must be specified in the notice, and until a satisfactory conclusion is reached in the matter of such changes the original provisions shall remain in effect in full force and effect.

Ť Sec. 3. This agreement shall be subject to amendments at any time by mutual consent by parties thereto. Any such 2 amendments agreed upon shall be reduced to writing, signed by the parties hereto, approved by the International office of the Union, the same as this agreement. 3 School District Exhibit B, Tr 19. 4 The contract is silent in setting forth any additional 5 requirements to terminate or open the Labor Agreement. 6 Twice during the life of the 1975-70 contract, the contract 7 was opened by the School District for wage negotiations. 9 School District opened the contract by making a written request for a negotiation session and Local 185 attended the negotiation session. Tr 38, 39, 43. 12 On April 7, 1978, the School District mailed the 13 following letter to Local 185: 14 In accordance with Article 1, Section 2, of the Negotiated Agreement between Local #185, International 15 Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and School District No. 1, Helena, Montana, this is the School District's 16 notification that they wish to terminate the contract at the expiration date of the contract which is July 1, 17 1978 18 Sincercly, 19 20 Penny Bullock Chairman, Board of Trustees 24 School District No. 1 22School District Exhibit A 23 Mr. Halpine, Local 185's business manager, states the 24 school Bistrict never contacted Local 185 to explain why the 25 school District was terminating the labor agreement. Mr. Halpine 26 costifies he was first informed that the School District was 27 going to contract out the electrical work when Local 185 put up a icket and was interviewed by the newspaper. Tr 20, 21. 29 Mr. Campbell, School District's business manager, and Clerk 30, f the School Board, states that Local 185 was never afforded an

pportunity to negotiate the question of subcontracting. Tr 45.

1.1	Mr. Weir, Assistant Superintendent, testifies as follows
2	regarding communications about negotiations:
3 4 6	EXAMINER: Did the electrical workers or the School District, either one of them, offer to negotiate a method of aubcontracting that would be done? Was there any communications on a willingness to sit down and negotiate subcontracting?
6	WEIR: I don't know what there would be to negotiate.
7	7r 34 (6-11).
38	5. On April 26, 1978, Local 185 notified the School
9	District as follows:
10 11 12	In accord with Article 1, Sec. 2 of the agreement between Local Union 185, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers and School District \$1, Helena, Mt., This is Local Union \$185°s notification that we wish to open the Contract at the expiration date, July 1st, 1978 for wages only.
13	Sincerely yours,
14	
15 16	W. Leroy Halpine, B.M. LU #185, I.B.E.W.
17:	School District Exhibit C
18	Mr. Balpine testifies that he had no reply from the School
19	District concerning the above letter. Tr 20, 21,
20	Meither the School District or Local 185 proposed a neg-
21	otiation meeting, states Mr. Campbell. Tr 36.
22	6. Mr. Holmquist and Mr. O'Brian, School District Elec-
23	tricians, were informed on June 2, 1978 by letter as follows:
24 25	Please be informed that your services with the Helena School District #1 will be terminated effective June 30, 1978.
26 27	Malcolm J. Streeter Director of Buildings and Grounds
28	INEW Exhibit #1 and #2.
29	7. Mr. Holmquist, an electrician for the School District
30	For the past nine years, was involved in union negotiations. Mr.
31	Holmquist was never disciplined or told that his work was improper.
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1 Tr 2, 3. Mr. Holmquist was given no reason for termination. 2 When he questioned Mr. Welr, Mr. Welr stated there was nothing to 3 talk about because the matter had been taken to the BPA. Tr 4, 31. About two weeks before this hearing, Mr. Holmquist began working at the School District for an electrical contractor. Atlas Electric. Mr. Holoquist is performing the same work for Atlas Electric as he did before his termination using the School District's equipment and trucks. Tr 9, 12, 51, 52.

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- 8. Mr. O'Brian, an electrician for the School District for the past seven years, was involved in some discussion of salaries at contract time. Tr 9, 10. Mr. O'Brian was only warned once for talking too much with the secretary, but never warned about inability to perform his job. Tr 10. Shortly before the 30th of June, 1978, Mr. Streeter, Director of Buildings and Grounds, told Mr. O'Brian that he thought things would get straightened out, Mr. O'Brian had no other reasons or warnings for termination. Tr 10, 11, 12,
- 9. The transcript of the hearing is wilent about Mr. Hologuist's and Mr. O'Brian's grievances on frozen wages, back pay, and other related union activities. (see charge p. 2)

The record is silent in the area of past requests for negotiations, negotiation session, and notice to open the labor agreement at the end of the labor agreement,

10. Mr. Weir states the reasons the School District terminated Local 185's contract were economic and, "conjecture on his part," public relations. Tr 24,32. Mr. Campbell testifies that the decision to terminate Local 185's contract and the discussion of other craft union contracts was held on the 4th Tuesday of March 1978. Mr. Campbell indicates the discussion of other union crafts contracts was not a matter of formal business, but planning Tr 43, 44, 45.

1 When Mr. Weir was questioned about how many electricians 2 will be needed, he replied, "Probably not over one or two." Tr 26 (20). Mr. Streeter states he has no idea how much electrical work is going to be contracted out. Mr. Streeter also states the 5 School District currently has more than two electricians working through the subcontractor. Tr 52, 53, 54, 7 When Mr. Campbell was asked if the School District over discussed employing only one electrician with Local 185, he replied as follows: 10 CAMPBELL: No. Not just one -- as it has already been stated, it's a matter of contract versus the subcontracting work to local contractors. Tr 41 (26-28). 12 Mr. Weir testified that no electrical maintenance work was 13: done for the School District from July 1 to August 7, 1978. Tr 14 251 15 14. The School District subcontracts with private firms for carpentry, painting, plumbing and possibly other work. The School District subcontracts only when additional employees are needed. The employees of the subcontractors do not replace the School District's regular maintenance employees. 7r 9, 24, 33, 56 Mr. Streeter testifies as follows to the reason for the 1969 change from a private contracted maintenance crew to the School District's own maintenance crew: WILLIAMS: What was the reasoning at that time to employ full-time employees rather than contract the work out? LEADHARY: I object. It is irrelevent and immaterial. EXAMINER: What was that question again? WILLIAMS: The question was, what was the reasoning at the time in 1969 to employ full-time maintenance people rather than contract the work out? EXAMINER: Answer the question please. STREETER: I guess that I would have to say it was my own

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idea. I was given the instruction when I was amployed by the Board to improve the custodial and maintenance operation.

I saw enough work to be done that I thought I could do it more economically with a full-time amployee. Tr 54 (10-23)

2 3 4 5 Ġ. 7 8 9 10 11 12 113 14 15 10 17 (1) 18 tion 19 1601 of this act; ... 20-21 22 ization; however,.... 23: 24 25 26. R.C.M. 1947. F F 9. 27 В., 28 29

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16. The hearing is laced with many objections which were overruled. I direct the parties attention to 59-1607(1) and 82A-1014(C) R.C.M. 1947 which basically states the BPA is not bound by statutory or common law rules of evidence.

#### IV. DISCUSSION:

The discussion will be divided into the subjects of termination of the electricians for union activities, termination of the labor agreement, and refusing to open the agreement for wages.

In the aron of termination of the electricians for union activities, the charge states the following:

When Local 185 International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers refused to open the contract by nutual consent and downgrade wages during the life of the agreement; the Board froze the wages and terminated our members Harold A. Holmquist and Michael P. O'Brian the entire craw involved for pursuing their rights and after we hired an attorney to obtain back pay.... See 59.1605(1)(a), (1)(c)....

Section 59-1605 states the following in part:

- Unfair labor practices of employer or labor organization. It is an unfair labor practice for a public employer
  - interfere with, restrain, or coerce employees in the exercise of the rights guaranteed in section 59-
  - (c) discriminate in regard to hire or tenure of amployment or any term or condition of employment to encourage or discourage membership in any labor organ-

Because the hearing is void of any evidence of a grievance, demand for back pay or other like union activities, I cannot confirm the alleged violation of Section 59-1605(1)(a) and (1)(c)

When reviewing the School District's termination of the labor agreement, the School District complied with the language and the intent of the contract. The School District's letter of termination of the labor agreement was within the time limit set forth in the agreement. Local 185 did not allege or argue the

letter of termination was not concise or understandable. PF 3, 4.

Next, I direct my attention to any requirements set forth by Montana's collective bargaining act, rules of the BPA or BPA cases: A section of the NLRA is partly comparable to a section of Montana's collective bargaining act.

MLRA

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Sec. 8 ...

ACT

59~1605....

(d) For the purposes of this section to bargain collectively is the performance of the mutual and the representative of the employees to meet at to wages, hours, and other terms and conditions of of employment, or the neqotiation of an agreement, or any questions arising thereunder, and the execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached if requested by either party,

obligation of the employer reasonable times and confer in good faith with respect but such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession: Provided, That where there is in effect a collective bargaining contract covering employees in an industry affecting 23 commerce, the duty to bargain

111serves a written 27 notice upon the other party to the contract of the proposed 28 termination or modification sixty days prior to the expiration date 29 thereof, or in the event such contract contains no expiration 30 date, sixty days prior to the time it is proposed to make such 31 termination or modification;

collectively shall also mean that

terminate or modify such contract,

24 no party to such contract shall

25 unless the party desiring such termination or modification-

(3) For the purpose of this act, to bargain collectively is the performance of the mutual obligation of the public employer, or his designated representatives, and the representatives of the exclusive representative to neet at reasonable times and negotiate in good faith with respect to wages, hours, fringe benefits, and other conditions of employment, or the negotiation of an agreement, or any question arising thereunder, and the execution of a written contract incorporating any agreement reached. Such obligation does not compel either party to agree to a proposal or require the making of a concession.

(2) offers to meet and confer with the other party for the purpose of negotiating a new contract or a contract containing the proposed modifications;

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(3) notifies the Pederal
Mediation and Conciliation
Service within thirty days after
such notice of the existence of
a dispute, and simultaneously
therewith notifies any State
or Territorial agency established
to mediate and conciliate disputes
within the State or Territory
where the dispute occurred,
provided no agreement has been
reached by that time; and

(4) continues in full force and effect, without resorting to strike or lock out, all the terms and conditions of the existing contract for a period of sixty days after such notice is given or until the expiration date of such contract whichever occurs later;....

### 29 USCA Sec 158(D)

In applying the above federal statute, the School District may have violated Section 8 (d)(2) of the NLRA by not offering to neet with Local 185. F F 4.

A review of the legislative history of Section 59-1605(3) R.C.M. 1947 finds that the original draft of the collective bargaining legislation did not contain the remaining part of NLRA Section H (d). I strongly believe in the requirements set forth in NLRA Section S. My strong belief is founded on the principle that a lot of labor strife can be everted by maintaining a full, honest and continuous line of communication. I cannot, however, impose the requirements of the NLRA Section 8(d) without either a SPA rule or statutory authority. Therefore, the School District is not guilty of any unfair labor practice in its termination or its method of termination of the labor agreement.

The National Labor Helations Board (NLRB) has, however, dealt with the issue of subcontracting outside the  $\theta(d)$  provision quoted above. It has decided the question on an B(a)(5) charge,

failure to bargain in good faith, which is similar to our section 59-1605(1)(e), R.C.M. (See Discussion C). Using the NLRB cases for guidance in deciding this matter, the NLRB states that bargainit on subcontracting is not required where: Sec. the subcontracting is notivated solely by economic reasoner it has been customary for the company to subcontract B. various kinds of work; no substantial variance is shown in kind or degree from  $Q_{+1}$ the established past practice of the employer; D. . . no significant detriment results to employees in the unit; the union has had an opportunity to bargain about Etc. changes in existing subcontracting practices at general negotiating meetings. See: Westinghouse Electric Corporation vs. International Union of Electrical, Radio and Machine Workers, AFL CIO. (1965); 150 NLRB No. 136; 58 LRRM 1257. 153 NLRB No. 33; 59 LRRM 1355. East Bay Union of Machinists vs. NLRH. (Fiberboard Paper Products) (1964); 379 US 203; 57 LRRM 2609. Town and Country Mfg. Corp. vs. NLRB (1962) 316 F2d 846; 53 LRRM 2054, The BPA adopted the above guidelines in ULP #3-75, United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America, Local Union No. 112 vs. Board of County Commissioners, Silver New County. The testimony indicates that the School District did not meet all the above requirements. PF 4, 5, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15. Therefore, the School District Failed to bargain in good faith in violation of section 59-1605(1)(e), R.C.M. 1947. Local 185 filed ULF #18-78 on June 28, 1978. Mr. Halpine states that he first was informed of the subcontracting when Local 185 put up a picket. Although testimony did not establish the date that picketing commenced, presumably the date was after the expiration of the labor agreement, June 30, 1970. Therefore,

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if I read Local 185's complaint on termination of the labor

time the UEP was filed. F F 4.

agreement to mean also a complaint on subcontracting, I would be

ignoring Local 185's lack of knowledge on subcontracting at the

I, therefore, must dismiss the charge. But, by dismissing this section of ULP #18-78, I do not wish to imply that I am giving a general broad based approval of the termination of the labor agreement and subcontracting. Also I am not implying that a charging party has no leeway in setting forth their complaint. C: The record contains a request by Local 185 to open negotiation for wages only. The record contains no request for a bargaining session by Local 185. The record is also silent in the area of past request for contract negotiations with the contract expiring. FF 5. 9. Looking for a guideline, I find a part of Section 8 of the NLRA comparable with a part of Section 59-1605 of Montana's collective bargaining act as follows: MLRA Sec. 8. (a) It shall be an 59-1605. Unfair labor unfair labor practice for practices of employer or labor an employer... organization. (1) It is an unfair labor practive for a (5) To refuse to public employer to: bargain collectively with the representatives of his (e) refuse to bargain

employees, subject to the provisions of Section 9 (a) ...

collectively in good faith with an exclusive representative ...

29 USCA Sec. 158 (5)

In the decision PBM Industries, Inc. (1975) 217 NLRB No. 28, 88 LRRM 1549 at 1550; the NLRB states:

The Administrative Law Judge found that Respondent did not refuse to bargain with Local 208 in violation of Section 8(a)(5) of the Act and recommended dismissal of that portion of the complaint. We agree, but so find because there is no evidence in the record of a request to and/or a refusal by, Respondent to bargain with Local 208.

Adopting the above guidelines, the School District is under no obligation to bargain with Local 185 without a request for a bargaining session.

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# V. Conclusions of Law

From the charge filed, the evidence presented at the hearing and the brief submitted; I conclude the School District did not violate Section 59-1685(1)(a),(I)(c) and [1)(e) R.C.M. 1947 as charged by IDEW.

### VI. Reconnended Order

Por the reasons set forth above, I ORDER that ULP #18-78 badismisses.

Dated this 302 day of December, 1978.

BOARD OF PERSONNEL APPRALS

Rearing Examiner

NOTE: As provided by Section 59-1607(2) R.C.M. 1947 and BPA Rule 24.26. 584, Exceptions, this RECOMMENDED ORDER becomes a FULL AND FINAL ORDER of the BPA if no written exceptions are filed within twenty (20) days after service upon the parties.

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